

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A roller for a roller assembly, the roller comprising:
- (a) a shaft; and
  - (b) a first tire mounted relative to the shaft, the first tire including:
    - (i) an elastically deformable core affixed relative to the shaft for rotation with the shaft; and
    - (ii) a non-compliant layer connected to the core for rotation with the core.
2. The roller assembly of Claim 1, wherein the shaft comprises a plastic shaft.
3. The roller assembly of Claim 1, wherein the shaft has a linear variance less than .03 inches per linear foot.
4. (Once Amended) The roller assembly of Claim 1, wherein the elastically deformable core comprises a cellular structure.
5. The roller assembly of Claim 4, wherein the cellular structure has an open cell structure.
6. The roller assembly of Claim 4, wherein the cellular structure comprises polyurethane.
7. The roller assembly of Claim 1, wherein the non-compliant layer comprises a layer of elastomeric material.
8. The roller assembly of Claim 1, wherein the non-compliant layer has a durometer less than 60 Shore A.
9. The roller assembly of Claim 1, wherein the non-compliant layer has a durometer greater than 35 Shore A.
10. The roller assembly of Claim 1, wherein the non-compliant layer has a durometer greater than 35 Shore A and less than 60 Shore A.

- B71  
cont
11. The roller assembly of Claim 1, wherein the non-compliant layer includes a metal tube.
  12. (Once Amended) The roller assembly of Claim 11, comprising a layer of coefficient of friction enhancing material on the metal tube.
  13. The roller assembly of Claim 1, wherein the non-compliant layer comprises a plastic tube.
  14. (Once Amended) The roller assembly of Claim 13, comprising a layer of coefficient of friction enhancing material on the plastic tube.
  15. The transport mechanism of Claim 1, comprising a second tire mounted on the shaft.
  16. (Once Amended) The roller assembly of Claim 15, wherein the second tire comprises:
    - (a) an elastically deformable core; and
    - (b) a non-compliant layer on the core.
  17. The roller assembly of Claim 16, wherein the non-compliant layer comprises a layer of elastomeric material.
  18. The roller assembly of Claim 16, wherein the non-compliant layer comprises a layer of synthetic rubber.
  19. The roller assembly of Claim 16, comprising a coefficient of friction enhancing surface on the non-compliant layer of one of the first tire and the second tire.
  20. (Twice Amended) A tire for a roller for transporting a sheet material, the roller including a shaft, and having an unloaded state and a loaded state, the tire comprising:
    - (a) an elastically deformable core connected relative to the shaft for rotation with the shaft; and

- (b) a non-compliant layer connected to and surrounding the elastically deformable core and the shaft, the elastically deformable core and the non-compliant layer being concentric in the unloaded configuration, and the shaft being offset from the concentric state in the loaded state, the non-compliant layer selected to preclude a deformation of the non compliant layer in the loaded state sufficient to induce skewing or scuffing of the sheet material upon contact with the sheet material, thus minimizing the skewing or scuffing of the sheet material.

B9 cont

21. (Once Amended) The tire of Claim 20, wherein the non-compliant layer has a constant cross section between the unloaded state and the loaded state.
22. (Once Amended) A roller having an unloaded concentric configuration and a loaded non-concentric configuration, the roller comprising:
- (a) a shaft;
  - (b) a non-compliant layer; and
  - (c) an elastically deformable core intermediate the non-compliant layer and the shaft, the elastically deformable core selected to produce a varying annular segment size of the elastically deformable core and the non compliant layer selected to produce a constant annular segment size during rotation of the shaft in the loaded non-concentric configuration.
23. The roller of Claim 22, wherein the non-compliant layer is one of a metal tube or a plastic tube.
24. (Once Amended) The roller of Claim 22, wherein the elastically deformable layer has a cellular structure.
25. (Twice Amended) A tire for a roller, comprising:
- (a) a hub; and
  - (b) a first tire mounted on the hub for rotation with the hub, the first tire including:

B11  
coul 11

- (i) an elastically deformable core affixed to the hub for rotation with the hub;  
and
  - (ii) a non compliant layer connected to the core for rotation with the core for  
rotation with the core.
-